

Message Text

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APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ

EUR/SE:RCEWING

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S/S- MR. REDDY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089680

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR

SUBJECT: COUNSELOR NIMETZ' MEETING WITH GREEK AMBASSADOR
ALEXANDRAKIS

1. COUNSELOR NIMETZ CALLED IN AMBASSADOR ALEXANDRAKIS
APRIL 20 TO OUTLINE STATEMENT HE WOULD MAKE ON BEHALF
ADMINISTRATION APRIL 21 BEFORE SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE
AND MIDDLE EAST OF HOUSE INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE
ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE FOR TURKEY AND GREECE.

2. NIMETZ PROVIDED AMBASSADOR WITH COPY OF PREPARED
STATEMENT (TEXT SENT SEPTTEL) AND SUMMARIZED HIGHLIGHTS.
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NIMETZ POINTED OUT THAT ADMINISTRATION WILL ENDORSE, IN
PRINCIPLE, TURKISH DCA BUT NOT URGE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION
AT THIS TIME. AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, IN LIGHT OF ALL
THE "RELEVANT FACTORS", WE SHALL DO SO. NIMETZ STATED
THAT, ALTHOUGH WE WOULD NOT SAY SO PUBLICLY, A MAJOR
"RELEVANT FACTOR" WAS THE CYPRUS SITUATION. THE ADMINIS-
TRATION DID NOT INTEND TO PRESS AHEAD IN CONGRESS WITH

THE TURKISH DCA IN THE ABSENCE OF SOME PERCEPTIBLE MOVEMENT ON THE CYPRUS ISSUE.

3. NIMETZ THEN DETAILED INTERIM MEASURES WHICH ADMINISTRATION IS REQUESTING CONGRESS AUTHORIZE FOR FY 1978:

DOLS 175 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS AND AN EXCEPTION TO THE PRESENT FMS CASH CEILING TO ALLOW US TO MAINTAIN ON GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT BASIS AN ONGOING TURKISH PROCUREMENT OF FORTY NATO-COMMITTED F-4 AIRCRAFT. NIMETZ STRESSED THAT, TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE RECOMMENDATIONS REPRESENTED A STEP BACK FROM THE CLIFFORD RECOMMENDATIONS, IN THAT WE WERE NOT SEEKING AUTHORITY ALLOW UNLIMITED FMS CASH SALES.

4. ALEXANDRAKIS REACTED TO NIMETZ PRESENTATION BY STATING THAT ATHENS, ON BASIS OF ADVANCE PRESS AND OTHER REPORTS ON PROGRAM, FELT SENSE OF SHOCK AND DISAPPOINTMENT. IN FY 1977 THE US PROVIDED DOLS 125 MILLION IN FMS CREDITS. THE ONLY THING THAT HAD CHANGED IN THE MEANTIME WAS THE ADMINISTRATION. TURKEY'S PERFORMANCE, AS DEMONSTRATED IN THE VIENNA CYPRUS NEGOTIATIONS AND ON AEGEAN ISSUES DID NOT JUSTIFY A HIGHER LEVEL FOR 1978. IT WAS THE GREEK VIEW THAT PROVISION OF DOLS 175 MILLION WOULD BE SEEN IN ANKARA AS A REWARD.

5. NIMETZ RESPONDED THAT HE COULD ASSURE ALEXANDRAKIS THAT THIS PROGRAM WOULD NOT BE VIEWED IN A FAVORABLE LIGHT IN ANKARA. WE WERE NOT PRESSING FOR EARLY CONGRESSIONAL

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CONFIDENTIAL APPROVAL OF THE TURKISH DCA, THE CEILING ON FMS SALES REMAINED IN FORCE WITH THE SOLE EXCEPTION OF THE F-4 PURCHASE, AND THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOLS 125 AND DOLS 175 MILLION WAS REALLY NOT SIGNIFICANT GIVEN INFLATION AND A REQUIREMENT FOR PROCUREMENT OF BADLY NEEDED SPARE PARTS. IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO UNDERSTAND HOW THE GOG COULD INTERPRET THESE ACTIONS AS A PRO-TURKISH MOVE.

6. ALEXANDRAKIS ASKED HOW MUCH THE PROPOSED F-4 EXEMPTION WOULD AMOUNT TO. NIMETZ SAID NO AMOUNT HAD BEEN SPECIFIED AND IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE TO PREDICT EXACTLY HOW MUCH OF THE REMAINING PAYMENTS FOR THE 40 F-4'S WOULD BE FUNDED FROM FMS CREDITS AND HOW MUCH AS AN FMS CASH TRANSACTION. THE GOG HAD ALREADY EXPENDED ABOUT DOLS 130 MILLION FROM FY 1976-77 FMS CREDITS FOR THESE PLANES WHICH ARE ALREADY IN PRODUCTION AND ABOUT WHICH CONGRESS HAS BEEN NOTIFIED. TURKEY COULD DEVOTE SOME OF THE PROPOSED FY 1978 DOLS 175 MILLION FMS CREDITS TO

PROGRESS PAYMENTS ON THESE PLANES.

7. ALEXANDRAKIS STATED THAT THE DISAPPOINTMENT IN ATHENS OVER THIS DEVELOPMENT FOLLOWED ON THE HEELS OF OTHER DISTURBING REPORTS. IT WAS CLEAR THE SISMIK WOULD SAIL AGAIN SOON. THERE HAD BEEN A HARDENING OF TURKISH ATTITUDES SINCE THE CLIFFORD MISSION. THEY HAD SABOTAGED THE VIENNA CYPRUS TALKS AND JETTISONED TWO YEARS' WORK ON THE AEGEAN AIR SPACE PROBLEM. MOREOVER, THERE HAD BEEN CONTINUED SILENCE FROM THE US ON THE GREEK REQUEST THAT THE "GUARANTY" LANGUAGE OF THE KISSINGER LETTER BE STRENGTHENED.

8. NIMETZ SAID OUR ASSESSMENT OF THE RESULTS OF THE CYPRUS TALKS DIFFERED BUT HE AGREED THAT THE AEGEAN TALKS HAD NOT YIELDED MUCH. WE WANTED TO BE HELPFUL IN CONFIDENTIAL

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THE AEGEAN DISPUTE AND IT WAS FOR THAT REASON WE WERE CONDUCTING A DETAILED REVIEW OF THE ISSUES. WE WANTED TO BE IN A POSITION TO BE RESPONSIVE IF BOTH SIDES THOUGHT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL.

9. ALEXANDRAKIS SAID HE WOULD REPORT FULLY ON THE NIMETZ CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION AND ON THE EXPLANATIONS WHICH HAD BEEN PROVIDED.
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